

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMCONSUL GENOA

TO AMEMBASSY ROME

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (FOR OMITTED PGHS)

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, IT

SUBJ: ELECTORAL RESULTS PROMISE TO BRING LEFT TO POWER  
IN LIGURIA

1. SUMMARY. LIGURIAN PCI AND PSI SCORED GAINS OVER NATIONAL AVERAGE IN REGIONAL ELECTIONS. TOTAL SHIFT TO LEFT ABOUT NINE PERCENT. NEXT REGIONAL ADMINISTRATION WILL PROBABLY BE COMMUNIST-SOCIALIST, POSSIBLY HEADED BY COMMUNIST. PROVINCIAL AND LOCAL ADMINISTRATIONS ALSO WILL BE PRIMARILY OF LEFT. REGIONAL RETURNS INTERPRETED AS CONFIRMING LEFTIST GENOA CITY GOVERNMENT.

2. IN IMPRESSIVE SHOW STRENGTH, PCI INCREASED ITS SHARE OF LIGURIAN ELECTORATE BY 6.8 PERCENT OVER 1972 RESULTS IN JUNE 15 REGIONAL BALLOTING (FROM 31.6 TO 38.4 PERCENT). INCREASE, COUPLED WITH PSI GAIN OF 2.3 PERCENT (FROM 11.2 IN 1972 TO 13.5), HAS RESULTED IN LEFTIST MAJORITIES IN REGION AND PROVINCES OF GENOA, SAVONA AND LA SPEZIA. PROVINCIAL CITIES OF LA SPEZIA AND SAVONA ALSO NOW HAVE  
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LEFTIST MAJORITIES. ONLY IN IMPERIA PROVINCE DOES THE

CENTER-LEFT LOOK SECURE.

3. MOST VOTES GAINED BY PCI AND PSI CAME FROM DC, WHICH SLIPPED 3.1 PERCENT (FROM 33.5 TO 30.4). ALSO SIGNIFICANT, HOWEVER, WAS THE POOR SHOWING OF THE EXTREME LEFT (.2 PERCENT FOR THE UNITA' POPOLARE SLATE). SOME OF DC'S LOSSES WERE ASSUAGED BY GAINS FROM THE 3.6 PERCENT OF ELECTORATE WHICH DESERTED THE PLI (DOWN FROM 5.9 TO 3.9) AND MSI (FROM 6.2 TO 4.6). THE PSDI MANAGED PICK UP SLIGHTLY (FROM 5.3 TO 5.5 PERCENT). THE PRI VOTE REMAINED STATIC.

4. SIZE OF PCI'S GAINS A SURPRISE. BEFORE ELECTIONS, ONE LOCAL NEWSPAPER NOTED THAT IN NO LIGURIAN ELECTION HAD POLITICAL PICTURE MOVED MORE THAN TWO PERCENT. FROM THIS ASPECT, THE NINE PERCENT MOVEMENT TO PCI AND PSI TRULY UNUSUAL.

5. INITIAL SOUNDINGS LEAVE LITTLE DOUBT THAT PSI WILL CHOOSE LEFT ALLIANCE IN REGION OVER CENTER-LEFT ONE. BOTH POSSIBILITIES WOULD COMMAND SAME MAJORITY OF 21 OUT OF 40 VOTES. NEXT PRESIDENT OF THE REGIONAL ADMINISTRATION MAY WELL COME FROM PCI. IN GENOA AND LA SPEZIA PROVINCES, ONLY LEFT ALTERNATIVE COMMANDS ABSOLUTE MAJORITY, WHILE IN SAVONA PROVINCE BOTH LEFT AND CENTER-LEFT POSSIBILITIES EXIST. IN IMPERIA PROVINCE, CENTER-LEFT REMAINS UNASSAILED.

6. LIGURIA'S THREE LARGEST CITIES NOW HAVE CLEAR LEFTIST MAJORITIES. EVEN THOUGH THERE WERE NO CITY ELECTIONS IN GENOA, CITY VOTED NEARLY 56% FOR LEFT IN REGIONAL POLL. RESULTS HAVE BEEN INTERPRETED AS STRONG CONFIRMATION FOR PCI-PSI GIUNTA FORMED IN APRIL. IN SAVONA AND LA SPEZIA, ONLY PCI-PSI ALLIANCES CAN COMMAND MAJORITIES. ALONG THE SMALLER COMMUNES, WE COUNT 35 THAT HAVE SWUNG TO THE LEFT, WHILE TWO PASSED FROM THE LEFT TO THE CENTER.

7. LOCAL OPINION TENDS VIEW SWING TO LEFT AS PROTEST AGAINST BAD GOVERNMENT AND LIGURIA'S ECONOMIC MALAISE. PCI IS WIDELY CHARACTERIZED AS THE PARTY OF ORDER.

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8. NEWSPAPER ARTICLES HAVE HINTED AT PRESSURE WITHIN REGIONAL DC FOR SOME KIND OF ALLIANCE WITH THE PCI. IT IS TOO EARLY TO ASSESS VALIDITY SUCH SPECULATION. IN CITY OF SAN REMO, A FRATERNAL SPLIT WITHIN THE DC WILL MAKE FORMATION OF AN ADMINISTRATION DIFFICULT. ONE NEWSPAPER QUOTED A DC SOURCE AS SAYING HE WOULD PREFER ALLIANCE WITH PCI TO ALLIANCE WITH HIS BREAKAWAY COLLEAGUES. AT LA SPEZIA, THE LEFT ELEMENT OF THE PRI

RELEASED A STATEMENT CALLING FOR A PRI-PSI ALLIANCE WHICH  
COULD PROPOSE TO THE PCI A PROGRAM FOR RADICAL SOCIAL  
RENEWAL. WHILE THE PCI HAS PUBLICLY CALLED FOR A  
QUOTE ALLIANCE OF ALL DEMOCRATIC FORCES UNQUOTE IN THE  
REGION, THERE IS LITTLE DOUBT THAT AN ALLIANCE WITH THE  
PSI IS ALSO AN ACCEPTABLE ALTERNATIVE.BRUNO

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